

NEWS RELEASE

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

The Department of Defense said today that a phased redeployment of forces sent to the Southeastern United States during the Cuban crisis has begun.

Elements of the 81st Air Division have returned to their home station at Shaw Air Force Base, Sumter, South Carolina, and fighter bomber aircraft and crews from Luke Air Force Base, Phoenix, Arizona, and Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nevada, have also returned to their home stations. Increasing numbers of units will be returning to their home stations within several days.

The Department also said that the special airborne alert carried out by the Strategic Air Command has been discontinued and SAC F-4 aircraft which were dispersed throughout the United States have returned to their home bases.

Marine Corps elements which were deployed from the West Coast will pass through the Panama Canal on the way to their home station early in December.

These developments follow the lifting of the naval quarantine, which was announced by the President on November 21. The Task Force which carried out this operation have been dissolved and their ships returned to normal operations.

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